

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Psalm response:**

Give praise to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

**Acclamation:**

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. *Alleluia!*

*The Apostles Creed is on page 456.*

**After the Bidding Prayers:**

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.  
For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia,  
Has risen as He said, Alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, Alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia,  
For the Lord has risen indeed, Alleluia. Amen.

**To conclude the Bidding Prayers:**

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,  
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,  
whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church,  
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven  
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,  
which he faithfully ministered on earth.  
Amen

**Communion Antiphon:**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

*The newsletter is also available at [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)  
If you do not need to take this one home, please return it to the console at the back of  
Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.*

**Catholic Parish  
of St Michael's  
Sonning Common**

*Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard,  
Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green  
and Caversham Park*

[www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday**

**27 April 2025**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**‘Faith, received from God as a supernatural gift, becomes a light for our way, guiding our journey through time.’**

Those words come from *Lumen Fidei*, the first papal encyclical (in 2013) of Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday. I do wonder if we always appreciate just how great a gift we have in the gift of Faith. I’ve seen media reports which say there’s been a resurgence in interest in Christianity, but that some of those who show interest are being called ‘cultural Christians’; they like the messages of Christianity - love, kindness, inclusion and mercy, but they struggle to accept that Christ is the Son of God who rose from the dead. They don’t have that gift of Faith. A little like St Thomas.

I have a friend who sits very much on the fence when it comes to Christianity. “Show me the proof and I’ll believe,” he once said to me. Just like St Thomas. St Thomas was fortunate. The Risen Christ provided the proof very physically. But what of us? The proof we have is in the Gospels; in the recounting of the story of ‘Doubting’ Thomas. And for me, the most compelling ‘proof’ comes from the reaction of the disciples once they had witnessed the truth of the Resurrection. After the death of Our Lord, they gathered together behind closed doors, in fear of what would happen to them if they set foot outside, supporters as they were of this man who’d died a criminal’s death. They seemed to have forgotten about His promise that He would rise again - or maybe they just didn’t yet have the faith to believe His words. And yet. And yet, just days after Christ appeared to them, they sprang out from their hiding place and shouted the news from the rooftops! Not only that, but most of them died an horrific martyr’s rather than deny the truth of His resurrection. Our faith comes from reading these inspiring accounts. It IS a gift and one we must nurture.

And isn’t it so encouraging and consoling to read the words of Our Lord: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”? (Jn 20:29)  
That’s you and me **BLESSED**, my friend! Alleluia!

*fhg*

## WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

**Catholic Parish of St Michael,**

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9SU Tel: 0118 972 3418

Email: [stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk)

Website: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

**St Michael's Hall Hire** Tel: 0118 972 3418

**St Martin's Catholic Primary School**

Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. Tel: 0118 901 5544

Website: [www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk](http://www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk)

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email [dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk)

All Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website



### FREE FIRST AID COURSE



We have at least one spare place on the first aid course this Monday 28th April from 9.30am - around 3.00pm in our church hall. If you would like to take part, please email Krissie: [stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk)

### WELCOMING FR COLIN BLAYNEY

Fr Colin is due to arrive this Thursday. **Please do join the Reception for him in our Hall after the 10.30 Mass** on his first Sunday here, 4th May, to give him a warm welcome. Thank you for signing up to help.

The 'Welcome' card at the back of the church is still available for your signature.

### MANY MORE THANKS

The Flower Arrangers want to pass on their gratitude for your generous donations towards the Easter flowers. Money well donated, I think you will agree.

Parishioner thanks go to those who do the arranging and upkeep of the flowers.

### EASTER OFFERING.

Thank you for your Easter offerings for Fr Michael Doyle and Fr Andrew Foster. Envelopes are still available at the back of the church.



### IT DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN...

...that our garden and the presbytery garden look well cared-for. A lovely bunch of parishioners turn up every Tuesday from 9.30 'til noon, April to Sept. to tend the gardens. Join them, why not?, even if only for a short time. .

*"We must never forget that the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone."* Laudato Si'

In memory of the late Pope Francis, perhaps it is even more important to heed his urgent call to care for the world which has been left to our stewardship.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Mary Lewis** who can be contacted at: [sg.stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns

## Parish Liturgies for week commencing 27 April 2025

This weekend we welcome Fr Joseph Murphy

### 26/27 April

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / Divine Mercy Sunday

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	Pope Francis, R.I.P.
Monday	-	No Liturgy
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday	2.00pm	Mass at St Martin's School - all welcome
Thursday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

### 3/4 May

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER: Celebrant Fr Colin

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Maddy Sharman, R.I.P.
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	

**Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners, family and friends;  
Lord, send your healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed.**

Dominic Antão; Catherine Belletty; Robert Brooks; Joe Bunton;  
Savanna Clark; Mary Edwards; Mary Hagger; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear;  
Jennifer Learmouth; Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz.

*If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.*

### For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

Peadar Farrell; Charles Halter; Mary Burns 'Lebbeus' "Edward" Horden;  
Gilbert Lousley; Anne Ouro; Christopher Stone; Yvonne De La Harpe; Norman Morey;  
Robert Downs; Patrick Keogh; Marjorie Burge; Peter McCann; Eileen and  
Jo McDermott; Edmund Bernard Pike; Gunter Plum; Tom Reilly; James Allison; Robert Brown; Philip Hoban; George Pascoe.

**May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.**